

REMARKS

The Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 27, drawn to a method for enhancing survival and/or proliferation of a neural stem cell comprising overexpressing Galectin-1 or Galectin-3 in the neural stem cell;

Group II: Claims 3, 4, 5-7, and 27, drawn to a method for enhancing survival and/or proliferation of a neural stem cell comprising culturing the neural stem cell in a liquid medium containing Galectin-1 or Galectin-3;

Group III: Claims 8-11 and 28, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a neural stem cell in which Galectin-1 or Galectin-3 is overexpressed;

Group IV: Claims 12, 13, 15, 16, 27, and 29, drawn to a therapeutic method for cerebral ischemia comprising transplanting a neural stem cell overexpressing Galectin-1 or Galectin-3 and a method for enhancing neurite extension comprising overexpressing Galectin-1 or Galectin-3;

Group V: Claims 14, 17, 20 and 30, drawn to an enhancer comprising Galectin-1 or Galectin-3 as an active ingredient;

Group VI: Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, and 27, drawn to a method for enhancing in vivo proliferation of a neural stem cell or an SVZ astrocyte, wherein Galectin-1 or Galectin-3 is injected into the brain;

Group VII: Claims 23, 25, and 26, drawn to a method for assaying for activity that enhances survival and/or proliferation of a neural stem cell comprising seeding a neural stem cell and determining whether the neural stem cell can proliferate in the assay medium; and

Group VIII: Claims 24, 25, and 26, drawn to a method for assaying for activity that enhances survival and/or proliferation of a neural stem cell comprising selecting a CD15+ neural stem cell, seeding the neural stem cell, and determining whether the neural stem cell can proliferate in the assay medium.

The Examiner also requests that Applicants elect one species from the following alleged three species: Galectin-1, Galectin-3, and C-S mutant of Galectin-1. Also, if Applicants elect Group III, the Examiner requests that Applicants also choose one species of cerebral function from the alleged species of motor function and sensory function.

Solely to facilitate prosecution and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants elect to prosecute Group VI, claims 18, 19, 21, 22, and 27, and the species Galectin-1 for examination.

Applicants have amended claims 18, 19, 21, 22, and 27 to reflect the elected species, to remove dependency on withdrawn claims, or to further clarify the claimed invention. As such, Applicants believe that these amendments do not introduce new matter. Applicants have also added claims 31-37. The specification supports these new claims at, for example, page 5, lines 3-32; page 6, lines 19-23; page 10, lines 29-

32; and page 10, line 35 to page 11, line 4. Thus, Applicants believe that new claims 31-37 do not introduce new matter.

Applicants request the timely examination and allowance of claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 27, and 31-37. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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